

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TETSUYA MATSUI ET AL.

Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: JANUARY 24, 2002

Title: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT  
SUPPORT SYSTEM AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE  
IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Box PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims prior to the examination of the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4 and 5 as follows:

**(A copy of the marked-up version of the amended claims are attached to this Preliminary Amendment).**

4. (Amended) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

5. (Amended) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

    said release information is information that is represented in graph format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in said certain process.

Please add new claims 15-18 as follows:

15. (new) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 2, wherein:

    the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

    said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

16. (new) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 3, wherein:

    the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

17. (new) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 2, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in said certain process.

18. (new) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 3, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in said certain process.

**(Applicants' remarks are set forth herein below starting on the following page).**

**REMARKS**

Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381HI/50780).

Respectfully submitted,

January 24, 2002



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please amend claims 4 and 5 as follows:

4. (Amended) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in [one of the claims from claim 1 to claim 3,] claim 1, wherein:

the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

5. (Amended) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in [one of the claims from claim 1 to claim 3,] claim 1, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in said certain process.